

MR Update

February 2025

Dear ISH Community,

A warm welcome from the ISH Medezeggenschapsraad (MR) – the Participation Council! We're excited to share our latest updates with you. Our goal is to make the MR more visible, accessible, and transparent, ensuring parents, students, and staff know who we are and what we do. To keep you informed about discussions and decisions, we'll be sending out regular updates on key topics we've discussed—either as a standalone newsletter or within the ISH newsletter, so stay tuned!

What does the MR do?

As a quick recap for those new to ISH, every school in the Netherlands has an MR (Participation Council), which brings together parents, students, and staff to represent the school community in discussions with leadership. Our role is to advocate for the school community, discuss key topics, and help shape policies that impact students, staff, and parents. We:

- Receive updates from school management on important decisions
- Advise on policies affecting the school community
- Approve certain changes before they take effect

We meet every **6-8 weeks** and will share regular updates to keep you informed.

Meet your MR representatives

This year, we've welcomed new members, including a secondary student representative, ensuring that all voices are heard:

- **Primary Parents:** Meenakshi Malik, Alexander Meyer
- **Secondary Parent:** Manon Blaxland
- **Secondary Student:** Trisha Ellis
- **Primary Staff:** Janine Ric-Hansen, Amy Stottelaar
- **Secondary Staff:** Erica Pellikaan, Drake Stoughton

What's Been Happening?

Cleaning & Hygiene Concerns

We've received feedback about classroom cleanliness—especially dust levels. After discussions with the cleaning company, the following actions have been taken to improve the situation:

- **Secondary location:** A deep clean is scheduled during the break.
- **Upper primary location:** Additional cleaning has been assigned.
- **Lower primary location:** The cleaning routine is running ok.

The cleaning company remains committed to improving hygiene, and a follow-up review will take place after the break.

Traffic & Safety update

Student safety around school sites is a priority. The school is in discussions with the 'Gemeente' (local government) regarding improvements, including better waiting areas near the crossing at the Buitenrustlaan and installation of a school warning sign for the Lower Primary location. The neighbourhood liaison and Zaanenschool are contacting the municipality about installing a zebra crossing and bus stop for the secondary location.

Reminder Please park considerately to keep the area safe for everyone, and ensure your child(ren) exit the car safely in designated areas, not on the street.

New Careers Programme

As you would have seen in a recent update, the school will be introducing the IB Career-Related Programme (CP)—a great alternative to the IB Diploma for students interested in business-related studies. The MR and previous MR members have been involved in some of the process. ISH has passed the consultancy phase, and the team are now working towards a proposed authorisation before the end of the schoolyear. Parents of MYP5 recently attended an info session, and more details will be shared once final approvals are in place.

Policies, Behaviour & Detentions

As MR we are involved in reviewing and updating policies. Recently, we have updated the Assessment, JEDI (Justice, Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion), and Behaviour Code of Conduct policies. Please note that all policies are available on the ISH website. We also discussed a stricter detention policy to promote a respectful learning environment. A trial period has begun in MYP5 with the following updates:

- Offensive language: 1-hour detention (previously 30 mins)
- Persistent lateness: Possible extension to 1 hour (under review)

School growth

As ISH continues to grow, the school leadership is working with the Gemeente Haarlem and the school boards to find solutions for both primary and secondary expansion.

For now, we're pleased to confirm that three additional classrooms have been secured for secondary students at the Zaanenschool, right next door— which is great news!

Stay connected!

Got questions or suggestions?



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We're here to represent you—so let's keep the conversation going!